

## MER

**MENSURAL**. *adj.* [from *mensura*, Latin.] Relating to measure.

**TO MENSURATE**. *v. a.* [from *mensura*, Latin.] To measure; to take the dimension of any thing.

**MENSURATION**. *n. f.* [from *mensura*, Latin.] The act or practice of measuring; result of measuring.

After giving the *mensuration* and argumentation of Dr. Cumberland, it would not have been fair to have suppressed those of another prelate.

**MENTAL**. *adj.* [mentale, French; mentis, Lat.] Intellectual; existing in the mind.

What a *mental* power  
This eye shoots forth? How big imagination  
Moves in this lip? To the dumbness of the gesture  
One might interpret.

So deep the power of these ingredients pierc'd,  
Ev'n to the inmost seat of *mental* light,  
That Adam now enforc'd to close his eyes,  
Sunk down, and all his spirits became entranc'd.

The metaphor of taste would not have been so general, had there not been a very great conformity between the *mental* taste and that sensitive taste that affects the palate.

If the ideas be not innate, there was a time when the mind was without those principles; for where the ideas are not, there can be no knowledge, no assent, no *mental* or verbal propositions about them.

She kindly talk'd, at least three hours,  
Of plastic forms, and *mental* powers.

Those inward representations of spirit, thought, love, and hatred, are pure and *mental* ideas, belonging especially to the mind, and carry nothing of shape or sense in them.

**MENTALLY**. *adv.* [from *mental*.] Intellectually; in the mind; not practically, but in thought or meditation.

If we consider the heart the first principle of life, and *mentally* divide it into its constituent parts, we find nothing but what is in any muscle of the body.

**MENTION**. *n. f.* [mention, Fr. mentio, Latin.] Oral or written expression, or recital of any thing.

Think on me when it shall be well with thee; and make *mention* of me unto Pharaoh, and bring me out of this house.

The Almighty introduces the proposal of his laws rather with the *mention* of some particular acts of kindness, than by reminding mankind of his severity.

**TO MENTION**. *v. a.* [mentioner, Fr. from the noun.] To write or express in words or writing.

I will *mention* the loving-kindness of the Lord, and the praises of the Lord.

These *mentioned* by their names were princes in their families.

The rest of the acts of Jehoshaphat are written in the book of Jehu, who is *mentioned* in the book of Kings.

All his transgressions shall not be *mentioned*.

**MEPHITICAL**. *adj.* [mephitis, Lat.] Ill favoured; stinking.

Mephitis exhalations are poisonous or noxious steams issuing out of the earth, from what cause soever.

**MERACIOUS**. *adj.* [meracius, Latin.] Strong; racy.

**MERCABLE**. *adj.* [mercor, Lat.] To be sold or bought.

**MERCANTANT**. *n. f.* [mercantante, Ital.] This word in *Shakespeare* seems to signify a foreigner, or foreign trader.

What is he?  
— A *mercantant*, or else a pedant.

I know not what but formal in apparel.

**MERCANTILE**. *adj.* Trading; commercial.

The expedition of the Argonauts was partly *mercantile*, partly military.

Let him travel and fulfil the duties of the military or *mercantile* life; let prosperous or adverse fortune call him to the most distant parts of the globe, still let him carry on his knowledge, and the improvement of his soul.

**MERCAT**. *n. f.* [mercatus, Latin.] Market; trade.

With irresistible majesty and authority our Saviour removed the exchange, and drove the *mercat* out of the temple.

**MERCATURE**. *n. f.* [mercatura, Latin.] The practice of buying and selling.

**MERCENARINESS**. *n. f.* [from *mercenary*.] Venality; respect to hire or reward.

To forego the pleasures of sense, and undergo the hardships that attend a holy life, is such a kind of *mercenaryness*, as none but a resigned, believing soul is likely to be guilty of; if fear itself, and even the fear of hell, may be one justifiable motive of men's actions.

**MERCENARY**. *adj.* [mercenaire, Fr. mercenarius, Lat.] Venal; hired; sold for money; acting only for hire.

Many of our princes, woe the while!  
Lie drown'd, and foked in *mercenary* blood.

Divers Almans, who served in the garisons, being merely *mercenary*, did easily incline to the strongest.

The appellation of servant imports a *mercenary* temper, and

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denotes such an one as makes his reward both the sole motive and measure of his obedience.

I was not for nothing I the crown resign'd;  
I still must own a *mercenary* mind.

**MERCENARY**. *n. f.* [mercenaire, Fr.] A hireling; one retained or serving for pay.

He a poor *mercenary* serves for bread;  
For all his travel, only cloth'd and fed.

**MERCER**. *n. f.* [mercier, French.] One who sells silks.

The draper and *mercier* may measure religion as they please, and the weaver may cast her upon what loom he pleases.

**MERCERY**. *n. f.* [mercerie, Fr. from *mercier*.] Trade of mercers; dealing in silks.

The *mercery* is gone from out of Lombard-street and Cheapside into Paternoster-row and Fleet-street.

**TO MERCHANT**. *v. n.* [marchander, French.] To transact by traffick.

Ferdinando *merchant*ed with France for the restoring Rouc-siglon and Perpignan, oppignorated to them.

**MERCHANTISE**. *n. f.* [marchandise, French.] Trade of mercers; commerce; trade.

If a son, that is sent by his father about *merchantise*, fall into some leud action, his wickedness, by your rule, should be imputed upon his father.

If he pay thee to the utmost farthing, thou hast forgiven nothing: it is *merchantise*, and not forgiveness, to restore him that does as much as you can require.

**WARES**; any thing to be bought or sold.

Fair when her breast, like a rich laden bark  
With precious *merchantise*, she forth doth lay.

Thou shalt not tell her at all for money; thou shalt not make *merchantise* of her.

As for any *merchantise* you have brought, ye shall have your return in *merchantise* or in gold.

So active a people will always have money, whilst they can send what *merchantise* they please to Mexico.

**TO MERCHANTISE**. *v. n.* To trade; to traffick; to exercise commerce.

The Phoenicians, of whose exceeding *merchantising* we read so much in ancient histories, were Canaanites, whose very name signifies merchants.

**MERCHANT**. *n. f.* [marchand, French.] One who trafficks to remote countries.

France hath slaw'd the league, and hath attach'd  
Our *merchants* goods at Bourdeaux.

The Lord hath given a commandment against the *merchant* city to destroy the strong holds thereof.

The most celebrated *merchants* in the world were situated in the island of Tyre.

**MERCHANTLY**. *adj.* [from *merchant*.] Like a merchant.

**MERCHANTLIKE**. *adj.* [from *merchant*.] Like a merchant.

**MERCHANT-MAN**. *n. f.* [merchant and man.] A ship of trade.

Pirates have fair winds and a calm sea, when the just and peaceful *merchant-man* hath them.

In the time of Augustus and Tiberius, the southern coasts of Spain sent great fleets of *merchant-men* to Italy.

**MERCHANTABLE**. *adj.* [mercabilis, Lat. from *merchant*.] Fit to be bought or sold.

Why they placed this invention in the beaver, beside the medical and *merchantable* commodity of castor, or parts conceived to be bitten away, might be the sagacity of that animal.

**MERCIALE**. *adj.* [from *mercy*.] This word in *Spenser* signifies *merciful*.

Nought but well mought him betight:  
He is so meek, wife, *merciable*,  
And with his word his work is convenable.

**MERCIFUL**. *adj.* [mercy and full.] Compassionate; tender; kind; unwilling to punish; willing to pity and spare.

Be *merciful*, O Lord, unto thy people thou hast redeemed.

**MERCIFULLY**. *adv.* [from *merciful*.] Tenderly; mildly; with pity; with compassion.

Make the true use of those afflictions which his hand, *mercifully* severe, hath been pleased to lay upon thee.

**MERCIFULNESS**. *n. f.* [from *merciful*.] Tenderness; willingness to spare.

The band that ought to knit all these excellencies together is a kind *mercifulness* to such an one, as is in his soul devoted to such perfections.

Use the means ordinary and lawful, among which *mercifulness* and liberality is one, to which the promise of secular wealth is most frequently made.

**MERCILESS**. *adj.* [from *mercy*.] Void of mercy; pitiless; hard hearted; cruel; severe.

His mother *merciless*,  
Her other son fast sleeping did oppress,  
And with most cruel hand him murdered pitiless.

The foe is *merciless*, and will not pity.

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Think not their rage to desperate t' essay  
An element more *merciless* than they.

What God so mean,  
So *merciless* a tyrant to obey!

Whatever ravages a *merciless* distemper may commit, she shall have one man as much her admirer as ever.

The torrent *merciless* imbibes  
Commissions, perquisites, and bribes.

**MERCILESSLY**. *adv.* [from *merciless*.] In a manner void of pity.

**MERCILESSNESS**. *n. f.* [from *merciless*.] Want of pity.

**MERCURIAL**. *adj.* [mercurialis, Lat.]

1. Formed under the influence of mercury; active; sprightly.

I know the shape of 's leg: This is his hand,  
His foot *mercurial*, his martial thigh,  
The brawns of Hercules.

This youth was such a *mercurial*, as could make his own part, if at any time he chanced to be out.

Tully considered the dispositions of a sincere, more ignorant, and less *mercurial* nation, by dwelling on the pathetic part.

2. Consisting of quicksilver.

**MERCURIFICATION**. *adj.* [from *mercury*.] The act of mixing any thing with quicksilver.

I add the ways of *mercurification*.

**MERCURY**. *n. f.* [mercurius, Latin.]

1. The chemist's name for quicksilver is *mercury*.

The gall of animals and *mercury* kill worms; and the water in which *mercury* is boiled has this effect.

2. Sprightly qualities.

Thus the *mercury* of man is fix'd,  
Strong grows the virtue with his nature mix'd;  
The dross cements what else were too refin'd,  
And in one interst body acts with mind.

3. A news-paper.

4. It is now applied, in cant phrase, to the carriers of news and pamphlets.

**MERCURY**. *n. f.* [mercurialis, Latin.] A plant.

The leaves of the *mercury* are crested, and grow by pairs opposite: the cup of the flower consists of one leaf, which expands and is cut into three segments; these are male and female in different places: the flowers of the male grow in long spikes, and consist of many stamina and apices, which are loaded with farina: the ovary of the female plant becomes a testiculated fruit, having a single round seed in each cell.

Herb *mercury* is of an emollient nature, and is eaten in the manner of spinach, which, when cultivated in a garden, it greatly excels.

**MERCY**. *n. f.* [merci, French, contracted from *misericordia*, Latin.]

1. Tenderness; goodness; pity; willingness to save; clemency; mildness; unwillingness to punish.

Oh heav'n have *mercy* on me!  
— I say, amen.

And have you *mercy* too?

*Mercy* is not strain'd;  
It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heav'n,  
Upon the place beneath. It is twice bless'd;  
It blesteth him that gives and him that takes.

Arise, and have *mercy* upon Zion.

Thou, O God, art gracious, long-suffering, and in *mercy* ordering all.

Examples of justice must be made for terror to some; examples of *mercy* for comfort to others: the one procures fear, and the other love.

Good heav'n, whose darling attribute we find  
Is boundless grace, and *mercy* to mankind,  
Abhors the cruel.

We adore his undeserved *mercy* towards us, that he made us the chief of the visible creation.

2. Pardon.

— 'Twere a paper lost,  
As offer'd *mercy* is.

Cry *mercy* lords,  
That you have ta'en a tardy sluggard here.

I cry thee *mercy* with all my heart, for suspecting a friar of the least good-nature.

3. Discretion; power of acting at pleasure.

Condition!  
What good condition can a treaty find  
I th' part that is at *mercy*?

The most authentic record of so ancient a family should lie at the *mercy* of every infant who flings a stone.

A lover is ever complaining of cruelty while any thing is denied him; and when the lady ceases to be cruel, she is from the next moment, at his *mercy*.

**MERCY-SEAT**. *n. f.* [mercy and seat.]

The *mercy-seat* was the covering of the ark of the covenant, in which the tables of the law were deposited: it was of gold, and at its two ends were fixed the two cherubims, of the same metal, which with their wings extended for-

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wards, seemed to form a throne for the majesty of God, who in scripture is represented as sitting between the cherubims, and the ark was his footstool: it was from hence that God gave his oracles to Moses, or to the high-priest that consulted him.

Make a *mercy-seat* of pure gold.

**MERE**. *adj.* [merus, Latin.] That or this only; such and no other thing else; this only.

This avarice  
Strikes deeper, grows with more pernicious root  
Than Summer-teeming lust; and it hath been  
The sword of our slain kings: yet do not fear,  
Scotland hath foilons to fill up your will  
Of your *mere* own.

I have engag'd myself to a dear friend,  
Engag'd my friend to his *mere* enemy,  
To feed my means.

The *mere* Irish were not admitted to the benefit of the laws of England, until they had purchased charters of denization.

From *mere* success nothing can be concluded in favour of any nation upon whom it is bestowed.

What if the head, the eye, or ear repin'd,  
To serve *mere* engines to the ruling mind.

Let Eastern tyrants from the light of heav'n  
Seclude their bosom slaves, meanly possess'd  
Of a *mere*, lifeless, violated form.

*MERE* or *mer*, whether in the beginning, middle, or end, always signify the same with the Saxon *mere*, a pool or lake.

**MERE**. *n. f.* [mere, Saxon.]

1. A pool; commonly a large pool or lake: as, *Winemere*.

I may say nothing of *meres* stored both with fish and fowl.

2. A boundary.

The millayer of a *mere-stone* is to blame: but it is the unjust judge that is the capital remover of land-marks, who defineth amiss of lands.

**MERELY**. *adv.* [from *mere*.] Simply; only; thus and no other way; for this and for no other end or purpose.

Which thing we ourselves would grant, if the use thereof had been *merely* and only mystical.

These external manners of laments  
Are *merely* shadows to the unseen grief,  
That swells with silence in the tortur'd soul.

It is below reasonable creatures to be conversant in such diversions as are *merely* innocent, and have nothing else to recommend them.

Above a thousand bought his almanack *merely* to find what he said against me.

Prize not your life for other ends  
Than *merely* to oblige your friends.

**MERETRICIOUS**. *adj.* [meretricius, meretrix, Latin.] Whorish; such as is practised by prostitutes; alluring by false show.

Our degenerate understandings having suffered a sad divorce from their dearest object, define themselves with every *meretricious* semblance, that the variety of opinion presents them with.

Not by affected, *meretricious* arts,  
But strict harmonious symmetry of parts.

**MERETRICIOUSLY**. *adv.* [from *meretricious*.] Whorishly; after the manner of whores.

**MERETRICIOUSNESS**. *n. f.* [from *meretricious*.] False allure-ment like those of strumpets.

**MERIDIAN**. *n. f.* [meridian, French; meridian, Lat.]

1. Noon; mid-day.

He promis'd in his East a glorious race,  
Now sunk from his *meridian*, sets apace.

2. The line drawn from North to South, which the Sun crosses at noon.

The true *meridian* is a circle passing through the poles of the world, and the zenith or vertex of any place, exactly dividing the East from the West.

The Sun or Moon, rising or setting, our idea represents bigger than when on the *meridian*.

3. The particular place or state of any thing.

All other knowledge *merely* serves the concerns of this life, and is fitted to the *meridian* thereof: they are such as will be of little use to a separate soul.

4. The highest point of glory or power.

I've touch'd the highest point of all my greatness,  
And from that full *meridian* of my glory  
I haste now to my setting.

Your full majesty at once breaks forth  
In the *meridian* of your reign.

**MERIDIAN**. *adj.*

1. At the point of noon.

Sometimes towards Eden, which now in his view  
Lay pleasant, his griev'd look he fixes sad;